

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

THE NEWSLETTER OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM



"We will demand of ourselves and the Federal Government, in general, that we put our own house in order."

"We are creating a special industry group . . . to develop and stimulate industry programs to provide health education and preventive health care for employees at every level and their families." *Excerpts from a White House Report on Health Care Needs, July 10, 1969.*

Vol. 2, No. 1 July 1970

INCREASING NUMBERS OF FEDERAL WORKERS RECEIVE HEALTH CARE IN 1970

Since January 1, 1970, significant progress has been evidenced in the growth of health units designed to serve thousands of Federal employees previously denied the use of health facilities. The Public Health Service reports the opening of the following facilities since April 1, 1970:

Cottage Way - Sacramento, California
Federal Building - Miami, Florida
Federal Building - Des Moines, Iowa
Federal Building - Fort Snelling,
Twin Cities, Minnesota
The Parklawn Building - Rockville, Maryland

U.S. Custom House - 2nd and Chestnut,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Environmental Health Service - 55 Ridge Road,
Cincinnati, Ohio
Securities and Exchange Commission - Capitol Mall North,
Washington, D.C.

Atlanta, Georgia:

730 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Peachtree and 7th, N.E.
1371 Peachtree Street, N.W.

1720 Peachtree Street, N.W.
1776 Peachtree Street, N.W.

Other agencies reporting newly established units include:

Veterans Administration - St. Petersburg, Florida
Veterans Administration - Montgomery, Alabama
Post Office Department - Jacksonville, Florida
Post Office Department - Syracuse, New York

Post Office Department - Wichita, Kansas
Post Office Department - 9th and Chestnut,
Philadelphia, Pa.
Federal Aviation Agency - Auburn, Washington

BUSINESSMEN MEET TO CONFER ON PROBLEM DRINKING AND DRUG ABUSE

On May 6, and again on May 17-19, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) sponsored two seminars related to the problems of alcoholism and drug abuse. The meetings were attended by business executives representing as many as 35 different industrial firms. Although the problem of alcoholism has received much attention from responsible men in industry in recent years, drug abuse has long been a neglected and avoided issue. It was evident from reports and comments among businessmen at these meetings that industry can no longer close its eyes to this serious industrialcrippler as it did for many years with alcoholism. Some response to drug abuse among industrial workers has already been forthcoming. The Winchester Group of the Olin Corporation has been one of the real pioneers in this area: According to Dr. Brubaker, Olin's Medical Director, the Olin Corporation has entered an enlightened age with respect to the treatment of drug addiction. Olin's Medical Department handles workers with drug problems no differently than those with emotional problems and does not discourage the hiring of former addicts any more than it would the hiring of a recovered alcoholic. Company addicts who have been identified by supervisors or by other means are no longer fired. As with the alcoholic the addict is referred to the company medical department for examination and treatment and/or referral. The company enjoys excellent relations with community treatment centers which are very instrumental in the rehabilitation of the problem drinker or addict.

Drug abuse in industry is not an isolated problem nor is the Olin Corp. an atypical case. NAM has identified 8 cities where there is a high percentage of drug abuse: New York, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, District of Columbia, Newark,

Philadelphia and Buffalo. Drug abuse is an urgent problem that must be met head-on without delay within the Federal service as well as business and industry.

INDUSTRIAL FIRST AID TRAINING - BOSTON REGION

On June 1 and 2 the local chapter of the American Red Cross conducted an Industrial First Aid Course for Federal workers in the Boston area. According to OHR Bill Pitochelli, response to the course was so overwhelming the session was oversubscribed and many were unable to attend at this time. It is expected that additional courses will be sponsored at later dates.

The immediate outcome of Boston's two day program has been the initiation of similar ventures in surrounding areas. To date local Red Cross groups have been contacted by Federal agencies in Hanover, New Hampshire and White River Junction, Vermont to conduct first aid training. In more remote areas such as those where medical assistance is not readily available, such training can have lifesaving effects. It is expected that many others will be interested in obtaining the services of local Red Cross groups to conduct similar training for Federal workers in their areas.

PROGRAM FOR ALCOHOLICS RECOVERY (PAR)

Having successfully piloted its Program For Alcoholics Recovery (PAR) in San Francisco, the Post Office Department is now prepared to expand its PAR activities to 75 major cities by the end of the year. Eleven cities have been designated for PAR offices by July 1. The first city is Chicago where PAR opened its doors on April 29. Other cities soon to join Chicago and San Francisco include Boston, Cleveland, Jamaica, Bethlehem, Atlanta, Miami, Denver, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Memphis.

In essence, PAR is a Post Office program designed to provide full-time counseling and assistance to the alcoholic employee. At the end of the first year of operation PAR estimates a 73% recovery rate. The cost/benefits of this first year showed a return of \$5 for every \$1 invested in PAR. This represents a \$250,000 return in increased efficiency and reduction in leave for a total investment of about \$50,000 for the cost of counselor services and overhead.

The Post Office Department Bureau of Personnel has recently completed the first draft of its *Hand Book on Program for Alcoholics Recovery (PAR)*. Although the Hand Book is subject to revision, anyone wishing to obtain a copy should address a request to Mr. Stanley Day, Program Manager, Bureau of Personnel, Post Office Department, 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 22060.

We hope to report more on PAR activities in future issues of this newsletter.

ALCOHOLISM TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS


OHR Matt Brown reports that the St. Louis Post Office has initiated a training program for all supervisors on alcoholism and that four referrals for rehabilitation have already been received. Matt Brown also reports two other locations conducting similar training. The Corps of Engineers at Kansas City is showing training films to supervisors on a schedule of four showings per day, and Cochran VA Hospital has scheduled a two-day, in-house training conference for its supervisors and has recently issued a policy statement on alcoholism.

In the Philadelphia Region OHR Bill Lawrence reports that the U.S. Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia and the Social Security Administration in Philadelphia and Baltimore have initiated alcoholism training for all supervisors.

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R. L. Bannerman			
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